

# Newsday

## Cop changes story again

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The rookie cop who testified that he lied about the circumstances in which he ran over a Borough Park man with his patrol car now says that admission isn't true.

In other words, he now says the admission that he lied is what's wrong — and that his original story is true.

The claim by Officer Byron Chow comes less than a week after a \$4.6 million settlement was reached between the city and Gabriel Framowitz, who sued the city after he was struck by Chow in November 2002. He suffered catastrophic injuries that forced him to stop working and left him with short-term memory loss and an inability to concentrate.

A jury found for Framowitz after Chow backed off his claim — made during a pretrial deposition — that the then-salesman was at fault because he jumped out from between parked cars.

"And again we know that's a lie, right?" Herbert Subin, Framowitz's lawyer, asked during the trial.

"Yes," Chow answered.

The officer admitted he was going faster than he had said and that he didn't see Framowitz, now 62, until he hit him.

Chow was assigned to the 66th Precinct. He has been out sick recovering from unrelated ligament damage.

Yesterday, he said he never meant to change his story.

"I got confused on the witness stand," said Chow, 32. "I wasn't sure of the questions. I just felt pressured by [Subin]. I didn't lie. . . . I just got confused up there."

Police officers can be fired for perjury, but it was not clear yesterday what might happen to Chow. He said he's worried about criminal or departmental charges. The Brooklyn district attorney's office has not answered questions about the case or possible charges against Chow.

Subin said authorities "basically promote" perjury by not punishing officers who lie.

Chow during the trial denied that supervisors pressured him to alter the facts of the case.

He was ostensibly on his way to the scene of a manhole explosion when he hit Framowitz, who was crossing 16th Avenue with his wife, Esther. The couple were heading to their car after attending a wedding celebration.

The wife was not hurt, but Framowitz suffered brain damage and several bone fractures.